Corruption in Public Sector Telecom Companies

†3841. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector telecom companies BSNL and MTNL are infamous for sending subscribers inflated bills;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to negligence by the said companies, a large number of subscribers have had/or offered to have their connection cut;

(c) the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government would consider to take help from CBI to curb rampant corruption in those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. The percentage of billing complaints with respect of bills issued by public sector telecom companies BSNL and MTNL is less than the target of 0.1% set by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. Further, there is a well-established redressal mechanism to address the complaints and wherever complaints are found justified, suitable rebate is granted.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Merger of ADC with USO Fund

3842. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI is considering to reduce the incoming/outgoing calls both on mobile and landline in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the plans in this regard;

(c) whether Government are also considering the merger of Access Deficit Charges (ADC) with USO fund; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)'s Telecommunications Traffic Order 1999 as amended from time to time, the telephone tariff is under forbearance except tariff applicable for fixed line rural subscribers, roaming services in mobile telephony and for leased circuit.

(c) and (d) The ADC is being regulated by TRAI by issuing Interconnect Usage Charges (IUC) Regulations from time to time. TRAI has issued latest regulation on 21.3.2007.

Delay in implementation of 3 G spectrum policy

†3843. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not implemented the 3 G spectrum policy, timely;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure in its timely implementation;

(c) whether Government are going to take any step regarding implementation of this policy without any further delay;

(d) if so, what and by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The guidelines for implementation of 3G systems are under formulation taking into account the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and other related aspects, including availability/vacation of spectrum from other existing users like defence, system costs, international practices and experiences, etc. so as to meet our national objectives. Incidentally, the 3G systems are yet to be implemented in large number of countries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.